XYLEBORUS BOWDICH, 1825 (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA): PROPOSED SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1720

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The purpose of this application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the widely used, firmly founded name *Xyleborus* Eichhoff, 1864 and to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the earlier but forgotten and enigmatic name *Xyleborus* Bowdich, 1825. The facts are as follows:

2. *Xyleborus* was established by Bowdich in 1825 (pp. xii, 149; figs. 35a–d) for a single species, *citri* Bowdich, a " worm " which he found in the wood of orange trees in Madeira and which he placed in " . . . the second family of the third order of Cuvier's class, *annelides* . . ." It is listed as belonging to the Annelida by Sherborn, 1925 but Neave, 1940, places it in the Buprestidae (Insecta, Coleoptera). No other published references are known.

3. *Xyleborus* Eichhoff, 1864 (p. 37), was erected for six species of Scolytidae (Insecta, Coleoptera) and has since been applied to more than a thousand nominal species, some of which are of considerable economic importance. Its type-species is *Bostrichus monographus* Fabricius, 1792 (p. 365) which was designated by Lacordaire, 1866 (p. 381) and again by Hopkins, 1914 (p. 131). The same species is also cited as type by Schedl, 1962 (p. 103). No other type-designations have been made.

4. If the Laws of Priority and Homonymy are allowed to operate in this case, grave confusion will clearly result. Therefore, in the interest of nomenclatural stability and current usage, the Commission is asked:

(a) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Xyleborus* Bowdich, 1825, for the purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy;

(b) to place the generic name *Xyleborus* Eichhoff, 1864 (gender: masculine), type-species by designation by Lacordaire, 1866, *Bostrichus monographus* Fabricius, 1792, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;

(c) to place the specific name *monographus* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen *Bostrichus monographus* (type-species of *Xyleborus* Eichhoff, 1864) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;

(d) to place the generic name *Xyleborus* Bowdich, 1825 (suppressed under the plenary powers in (a) above) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

APPENDIX

NOTE ON *XYLEBORUS CITRI* BOWDICH, 1825

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Bowdich's description of the larva " Xyleborus " and the accompanying figures are so lacking in detail and accuracy (even with regard to the segmentation) that there is little to suggest, let alone indicate, which family or order of insects is concerned. Of the four possible orders, viz. Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, Diptera and Hymenoptera, the last three can be discounted because of the tapering body, the well-developed mandibles and/or the absence of well-developed thoracic legs and pseudopods.

In the Coleoptera, there appear to be only three possible families which could be implicated, namely the Buprestidae, Throscidae and the Cerambycidae.

At first reading, there are certain remarks which are perhaps more generally characteristic of the first, such as the fact that the *Citrus* trees were apparently healthy prior to infestation by " Xyleborus "; that the larval gallery was " circuitous"; and that the body " terminates almost in a point ". From the illustration it is clear that the degree of tapering has been grossly exaggerated. There appears to be only one (endemic) buprestid on the island – an *Agrilus* the larva of which would undoubtedly terminate in a *pair* of " points " or caudal processes which would almost certainly be strongly sclerotised and pitchy. It is the ambiguity of Fig. 35d which is the most difficult to interpret. Unfortunately there is no direct reference to this figure but it is obviously a frontal view of the head capsule showing the mandibles. The point is whether the mandibles can be regarded as being short, thick and gouge-shaped (Cerambycidae, Buprestidae) or whether they are produced and curved outwards (Throscidae). The author refers to " a small spine on each side of the *upper* part of each of the *four* first rings " (my italics). This can, I feel, only be interpreted as meaning that the larva possesses three pairs of small but distinct thoracic legs. This could apply either to the Throscidae (there is one endemic species on the island) or the Cerambycidae, but the obviously robust nature of the body makes the latter the more likely.

Maybe the species concerned is still quite common – perhaps even a minor pest of *Citrus* so it should be possible to collect further material in order to clinch the matter.

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